

Dear Committee Members,

I am very impressed with the bill HB 6200 and am urging you to pass this most important legislation so that it becomes law. I am a 34 year old Chronic Lyme sufferer and Psychologist who has been working with many Chronic Lyme patients from around the United States for many years. The devastation this disease brings on is so underestimated and very misunderstood. Most people who discover they have this multi-systemic disease receive little care from their physicians and generally it takes 8-10 physicians before even receiving a diagnosis. By the time a diagnosis is made (if at all), the damage has been done. Most patients will then be looking at years of treatment. I can tell you from my own story that none of my aggressive Intravenous antibiotics for 3 years, which by the way returned me to a state of much improved health, none of these antibiotics were covered by insurance. I was forced to file for bankruptcy which has now affected my life in so many disastrous ways. The other key point to understand in thinking about why this bill is so important is that due to ignorance on the part of the medical community much of it perpetuated by the Infectious Disease Society of America which claims this is an easy to treat and hard to get disease is lack of treatment within the community people with Lyme live. Most patients have to travel extensively. I travel 4 hours to another state to get treatment. Furthermore, due to the perpetuation of the myth that Lyme is easy to treat and hard to get, doctors who will treat aggressively and for long periods are afraid for their medical licenses for going against this belief and insurance companies bank on this myth to not pay for lengthy treatment. All in all it ends badly for all the patients who are only wanting to feel better and receive adequate treatment.

I urge you to support this measure and make it law as you are saving lives and people from becoming permanently disabled.

I salute your efforts.

Thanks for reading,

Mindy Beth Lipson, PsyD